

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CARACA 04861 300831Z

21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 ACDA-07 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

USSS-00 /077 W

----- 094020

R 292155Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3007

INFO USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 4861

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: PINS, ASEC VE

SUBJ: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING - NEW COMUNIQUE RECEIVED

EF: CARACAS 4385

1. THE KIDNAPPERS OF US INDUSTRIALIS WILLIAM NIEHOUS DISTRIBUTED A NEW COMMUNIQUE TO THE MEDIA ON APR 28 IN WHICH THEY REITERATED THEIR INTENTION TO CONTINUE HOLDING NIEHOUS INDEFINITELY UNTIL A RESOLUTION OF THE CASE IS REACHED WITH THE OWENS-ILLINOIS COMPANY. MEANWHILE, NIEHOUS' CAPTORS SAID THEY ARE CONTINUING TO ACCUMULATE " NEW AND IMPORTANT INFO WHICH WE WILL MAKE KNOWN TO NATIONAL AND INTER-NATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION AT THE PROPOER TIME."

2. THE LATEST COMMUNIQUE, ADDRESSED TO THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE, IS DIVIDIED INTO THREE PARTS. THE FIRST REFERS TO THE "PRESSURES" TO WHICH NIEHOUS' CAPTORS HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED, IN PARTICULAR THE "BOMBARDMENT" AND OCCUPATION OF A PRESUMED GUERRILLA CAMP IN MONAGAS BY VENEZUELAN SECURITY FORCES. THE KIDNAPPERS CHARGE THAT "ALL THESE MEASURES DO NOT HIDE THE INTENTION (OF THE GOV) OF PROVOKING NIEHOUS' DEATH."

THE SECOND PART OF THE COMMUNIQUE HAS TO DO WITH THE KIDNAPPERS' LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CARACA 04861 300831Z

DEALINGS WITH OWENS-ILLINOIS. CLAIMING THAT THEY "HAVE NOT

SOUGHT A RANSOM AT ANY TIME," NIEHOUS' CAPTORS INDICATE THAT THEY HAVE IMPOSED "A SANCTION ON OWENS THRU THE BONUS PAID TO THE COMPANY'S WORKERS AND A SUM AS A MEANS OF COMPLYING WITH THEIR UNMET DEMANDS." THE KIDNAPPERS MANTAIN THAT OWENS-ILLINOIS "STILL HAS THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM IN ITS HANDS AND WARN THAT IF THE COMPANY "CONTINUES ITS MANEUVERS, IT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE ULTIMATELY FOR NIEHOUS' FATE". ON THE OTHER HAND, NIEHOUS' ABDUCTORS INDICATE THAT SHOULD THE COMPANY ADOPT A POSITION WHICH WILL PERMIT THE CASE TO ADVANCE IN A FAVORABLE MANNER, "MATTERS WILL RESOLVE THEMSELVES." IN THE THIRD SECTION OF THE COMMUNIQUE THE KIDNAPPERS STATE THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO HOLD NIEHOUS INDEFINITELY.

3. COMMENT: THE POLICE ARE PUZZLED BY THE KIDNAPPERS' LATEST COMMUNIQUE BECAUSE IT IS NOT AS SPECIFIC WITH REGARD TO THE RANSOM AMOUNT AS THE MESSAGE MRS NIEHOUS RECEIVED THRU THE CARDINAL ON APR 15. INSTEAD THE KIDNAPPERS APPEAR TO HAVE GONE BACK TO THEIR DEMAND FOR AN UNSPECIFIED SUM OF MONEY AS A RANSOM WHICH THEY MADE IN THEIR SO-CALLED "FINAL COMMUNIQUE" OF APR 10 (CARACAS 4223). THIS HAS CAUSED THE POLICE TO HAVE SOME DOUBTS NOW ABOUT THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE APR 15 MESSAGE. THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE NO DOUBT ABOUT THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE LATEST COMMUNIQUE, HOWEVER, SINCE THE KIDNAPPERS ATTACHED A PHOTO OF NIEHOUS AND PHOTOCOPIES OF 21 DOCUMENTS FROM OWENS-ILLINOIS' FILES. REPORTEDLY THESE DOCUMENTS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN ROUTINE PAPERWORK RELATING TO THE COMPANY'S BUSINESS IN VENEZUELA. WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT IN THIS LATEST COMMUNIQUE IS THE ABSENCE OF THE KIDNAPPERS' OFTEN-REPEATED DEMAND FOR PUBLICATION LOCALLY OF THEIR FEBRUARY 28 COMMUNIQUE. HERETOFORE THIS DEMAND HAS APPEARED IN EVERY COMMUNICATION FROM THE GROUP HOLDING NIEHOUS AND ITS ABSENCE THIS TIME MAY REPRESENT A CONCESSION WHICH WOULD PERMIT OWEN-ILLINOIS TO COMPLY WITH THE REST OF THE GROUP'S DEMANDS FOR NIEHOUS' RELEASE.

ASENCIO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, EXTORTION, NEGOTIATIONS, COMMUNIQUE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CARACA04861
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760166-0302
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976049/aaaaagoz.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 NOV 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING - NEW COMUNIQUE RECEIVED EF: CARACAS 4385
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, VE, US, OWENS-ILLINOIS, (NIEHOUS, WILLIAM F)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006